

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 1.

AURELIA, IOWA, OCTOBER, 1895.

No. 8.

POINTERS



IN FAVOR OF THE

Health and Comfort-Giving
Feels-well Waist

Over any Similar Garment.

While it is suspended from the shoulders the weight is distributed on the most common sense and scientific principles obviating that dead weight and constant pull by reason of the straps at the back through which the body oscillates. A little abdominal supporter in the center of the waist band in front, with adjusting straps on each side enables the waist band to be made larger or smaller without changing the position of the buttons on the waist band. For little folks with full large stomachs the garments can be buttoned lower in front, allowing them to hang even at the bottom. It is a perfect Shoulder Brace. The adjustments are all in front. A child can put on or remove the Feels-well in a moments time. The waist band is a gored belt; form fitting, impossible to cut the flesh or bind the wearer in any way. The waist band can be raised or lowered to suit the waist line by adjusting buckles on the shoulder straps. The Feels-well will assure the wearer perfect freedom and comfort, will greatly add to the grace and beauty of the form and carriage. We use the sliding bar buckles. No pronged buckles used to tear the garment or injure the wearer. Made of the best Lisle Webbing.

Have you tried the Keystone Clasp? The easiest to fasten. The strain is distributed over the sides and bottom of the clasp so it is impossible to wear or tear the hose. We will pay for every pair of hose the Keystone Clasp tears, no matter how fine the fabric. If not found with your dealer will be mailed upon receipt of price.

Geo. N. Buck Mfg Co., Mattoon, Ill.

COL. JOSEPH LEFFEL,

Smallest
Business Man
In the World.

Springfield, Ohio.

46 inches high, 60 years old, weight 62 pounds. Breeder of all varieties of

Poultry,

Pigeons, Rabbits, Ferrets, Guinea Pigs, Maltese Cats, Fine Dogs and
SHETLAND PONIES.

T. C. CREPPS,

Breeder of

Poland-China Swine.

No better stock anywhere. Write for description and prices.

T. C. CREPPS, Aurelia, Iowa.

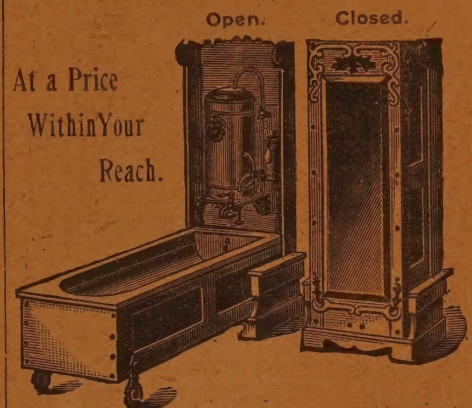
The Bath Tub?

The Great Problem of your home is solved with the

"MOSELY"

FOLDING

BATH TUB.



At a Price
Within Your
Reach.

Shuts up like a folding bed. No bath room required. An ornament to any room. Perfect water supply and waste. With or without Water Heater. Mirror or panel front. Gas, Gasoline or Kerosene Burners. White Enamel, Copper or Zinc lined.

Send 2 cts for Catalogue illustrating 20 Styles Tubs, Improved Water Heaters, Quadruple Action Force Pumps, etc. Mosely Folding Bath Tub Company.

161 S. Canal St., CHICAGO, ILL.

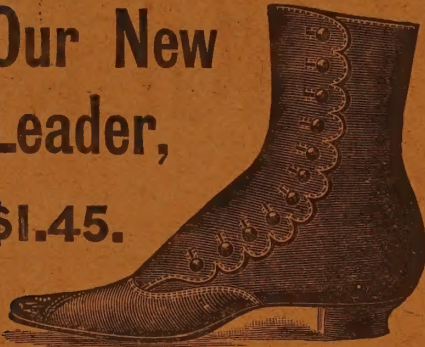
CENTRAL NURSERIES

Complete in all departments. Fruit trees of all kinds and small fruits. Evergreens cheap by the 100 for wind-breaks. Ornamental trees, roses, bulbs, shrubs, etc. SPECIALTIES: Wragg Cherries, Evergreens and Grape Vines, 1 and 2 years old, first class vines, cheap in large quantities. Send for price list.

Agents Wanted.

J. WRAGG & SONS
AURELIA, IOWA.

Our New Leader, \$1.45.



Last year's demand for our Leader was so large that we were unable to manufacture them as fast as they were ordered. This year we have one mammoth factory that manufactures nothing but this line, and we are making this boot in such immense quantities that we are able to produce a much better boot.

We have many new improvements in this line: first, it is made of heavy genuine Dongola, solid leather sole and inner sole; second, it has a leather sock lining, which no other but a high-priced boot has; third, it has a back-stay; fourth, as much care is taken in selecting this stock, and in making, as in our higher-priced goods; fifth, we not only warrant but we guarantee every line to be just as represented. The above cut is an exact copy of the boot itself.

Our New Leader Ladies' Dongola Button; styles, Plain Opera Toe, Plain Common-Sense Toe, Opera Toe Patent Tip; widths, D, E, and EE; sizes, 2½ to 8.

Our New Leader Ladies' Dongola Front Lace, Opera Toe Patent Tip; widths, D, E, and EE; sizes, 2½ to 8.

Our New Leader Ladies' Dongola Button, Spring Heel, Common-Sense Last; Patent Tip; widths, D, E, and EE; sizes, 2½ to 6.

Any of the above-described shoes sent on receipt of \$1.45, all postage paid by us. Send for complete illustrated catalogue of all grades of boots and shoes — free. Please mention this paper.

POSTAL SHOE CO.,
Box 2657. Boston, Mass.

A GREAT PAIR. . .

Western Poultry Journal,

A 24 to 36 page monthly magazine published at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, elegantly printed, carefully edited, and always interesting; 50 cents per year.

The Poultry Messenger,
25 Cents Per Year.

We send both papers one year for only 50 cents. Try "A Great Pair."

The American Poultry Advocate.

Clarence C. DePuy, publisher, Syracuse, N. Y., handsomely illustrated, 20 pages, 25c per year; 64-page illustrated practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers; book alone 10c; paper four months on trial 10c sample copy free.

GREER'S BARRLED Plymouth Rocks

SILVER LACED WYANDOTTES,
....AND....



S. C. Brown Leghorns,

Are from the

Best Strains in America.

Seventeen years in breeding, mating and judging enables me to mate for BEST RESULTS. A few fine birds for sale at low prices.

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.

Our CLUBBING List.

WOMANKIND,

Published at Springfield, Ohio, a 16-page, 64-column monthly journal for Woman and Home,..... 50 Cents.

FARM NEWS,

Sixteen large pages. A high class monthly journal for all departments of the farm,..... 50 Cents.

The Poultry Messenger, Twenty-five Cents.

The 3 Papers for 50 Cents.

This is the lowest clubbing offer that can possibly be made. If you want to take advantage of it you had better do so at once, as we do not know how long we can continue it.

Barred Plymouth Rocks, AND Black Langshans.

Fine Stock for Little Money

Choice cockerals for sale of both breeds at \$1.00 each. Plymouth Rock pullets at 75 cents each. My stock is very fine. It will please you.

M. PARROTT,
Aurelia, Iowa.

THE * Plymouth Rock.

Its Remarkable Popularity, and a Few of the Reasons Which Have Given Rise to It.

A 12-PAGE PAMPHLET

For advertising purposes. Price \$1.50 per hundred. Send one cent stamp for sample.

They will be found to be an excellent thing for distribution at the fall fairs, and many thousand of them are being made ready for breeders who intend to use them in that way.

Address

A. L. BELEW,
AURELIA, IOWA.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 1,

AURELIA, IOWA, OCTOBER, 1895.

No. 8.

GET RID OF THEM.

All hens of the same breed will not lay equally well under the same treatment. This is a fact which is known to all experienced poultrymen. Some of the finest looking hens in a flock cannot be induced to lay enough eggs during the winter to pay for their feed. All who keep poultry are sure to get some hens of that kind on their hands. To keep the flock free from them as nearly as possible is one of the important duties of the poultryman, as his profit and loss account will be affected to a considerable extent according to the manner in which this duty is discharged.

The poultry keeper needs to be a close observer, or else he will never find out which of his hens are good layers and which are not. We have met with people who claimed to be able to pick out the hens that laid every egg which they find in the nest boxes of their poultry houses. They say, truly, that no two hens lay eggs which are exactly alike; that the eggs of the same hen from one day to another are of the same color and shape, and vary only in size. They differ sufficiently from those of any other hen to enable one who takes particular note of these things to distinguish them. However this may be, it stands those in hand who keep poultry for profit to maintain such an oversight of their fowls as will enable them to "spot" these poor layers and weed them out of the flock.

Winter will shortly be upon us here in the north, and there are at least six months ahead of the poultryman during which his hens must be fed and cared for in a manner which means work and not play. It behooves him to find out early which of his hens are paying for their keep and which are not. When the main part of the flock are laying regularly keep an eye on the few that are never seen on the nest, and get rid of them early. The chances are at

least three to one that they will not lay an egg before spring, and by that time they will have more than eaten their heads off. We are aware of the fact that some people hold to the idea that such hens prove remarkably good spring and summer layers—that at that season they discharge their indebtedness to the owner by doing for him what they failed to do during the winter.

Our experience has taught us that a good winter layer is a good summer layer, and a good layer all the year round. We have no faith in the theory that a hen that does not lay in the winter will produce more eggs in the summer than one that does. A hen could not secure lodging and entertainment with us on any such doubtful plea as that. If we wanted spring and summer layers we would hatch out a lot of late pullets with that object in view. It would require less feed and less house room to carry them through the winter, and they would for a certainty give us more eggs than the same number of old hens which would loaf around and dead beat their way for six months in the year.

FALL WHITEWASHING.

It is a good plan to whitewash the interior of the coops the last thing before winter sets in. If it is true, as is claimed by poultrymen to whose opinions and assertions much value is attached by the fraternity, that lime in the poultry house tends to the prevention of roup, then late fall whitewashing is of the utmost importance. But whether the theory is founded on truth or not, this late whitewashing will pay. If we whitewashed our houses but once during the year we would do it just before the fowls were to be shut in for the winter. We could use other means to prevent the lice from multiplying during the summer months which would be effectual, but nothing else which we

could do would take the place of the whitewash. The way to do whitewashing is with a spray pump. A cheap pump, with which the spraying can be done easily and rapidly, can be had for \$1.50. No one whose time is worth anything can afford to do any considerable amount of whitewashing in his poultry houses by means of a brush in the old-fashioned way. Not more than ten minutes will be required to whitewash the walls of any ordinary sized poultry house with the sprayer, and the work will be as well done as any one could do it with a brush. A spraying apparatus, for this and other purposes, should be a part of the outfit of every poultryman.

A Hand Cart Worth Having.

We advise those in need of a hand vehicle for light hauling to buy the hand cart advertised in these columns by Parlan & Orendorff Co., Canton, Ill. Every poultryman needs something of this kind, and he will not find anything better suited to his purpose than this cart. We do not hesitate to say that this is the best made hand cart that we have ever seen, and we do not believe that a better one can be made and sold for the same money.

A Good Substitute.

Clover hay is so scarce in Iowa this winter that it is not everybody who can get enough of it even to supply the chickens. We have found the tops and blades of nicely cured corn fodder a very good substitute. It will be worth your while to try it if you have the fodder on hand and no clover.

A Fair Average.

If one has a flock of thirty hens he should obtain an average of ten eggs a day, taking the year through. This is a good average, and any one who succeeds in attaining it should be satisfied with the result. It is better than the majority of people do who make a success of the business.

LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.

We always look with some suspicion upon the breeder who claims to have an engagement with farmers to hatch out for him and rear a certain proportion of his poultry. We do not believe a dozen farmers could be secured in any locality who could be safely intrusted with a task of that nature. In glancing over our own community we cannot think of one. We do not mean to say that farmers cannot be found who are competent to perform the work required of them, or trusted to look after it in an honest way. But farmers of this kind are not hiring themselves out to look after other people's poultry. There is no need for them to do it. They can make better wages by giving what time they have for such work to chickens of their own. The farmer who possesses these qualifications is no greenhorn. He has made a study of poultry keeping, and is fully informed in regard to the profits which are in it. The ordinary farmer who has not done this is no better fitted for rearing a flock of thorough-bred fowls than is anyone else with no more experience than himself in that kind of work.

The fact that a man lives on a farm and has kept a lot of mongrel chickens about him all his life is no evidence of his fitness to properly handle a flock of thorough-breds which it is intended to dispose of as breeders. On the contrary, the fact that he has been content to keep mongrels all those years when he has had every facility and convenience for keeping something better, and every opportunity for finding out that it would be greatly to his advantage to do so, is pretty conclusive evidence of his unfitness to take charge of a flock of thorough-breds which it is proposed to introduce into the yards of well informed, careful and painstaking breeders. A farmer with no other experience than that is no better qualified to bring up a flock of thorough-breds than is some resident of a village who never owned a chicken in his life. As a matter of fact, we would prefer to trust such a job to the villager, assuming that the two men were equally honest. The villager, conscious of his deficiencies, would set himself to work with a view to qualifying himself for the task which he had assumed, and would be likely to draw his information from re-

liable sources, whereas the farmer would trust to his experience, which would be without value when applied to the care of a kind of stock which he knew nothing about. A farmer anywhere in the corn belt of the United States who filled his yards with the half wild, razor-backed hogs which run loose in the woods of the south, would hardly be considered a fit person to rear full-blood Poland-Chinas for a breeder and shipper of that class of animals. He might claim to know more than all the men in his township about swine keeping, but his pretensions in that particular would be wholly discredited by the evidence of his own yards. He wouldn't have that kind of stock about him if he really knew what he claimed to know.

Breeders of thorough-bred poultry as a rule are exceedingly careful about the purity of the stock which they offer for sale. Their reputation is everything. A loss of reputation here means a loss of dollars in larger proportion to the volume of business than in almost any other employment. Let it become whispered about that a breeder is careless about the purity of the stock which he is offering for sale, and the lack of customers will soon compel him to quit and shut up shop. Realizing all this, is it at all likely that he will entrust the performance of the most important part of his duties entirely out of his sight, and into unskillful, and, perhaps, careless hands. Does the reader really think that his favorite breeder would do it?

THE POULTRY HOUSE FLOOR.

The writer does not believe in board floors for the poultry houses. We find various objections to them, the principal one being their coldness. No ordinary care will prevent cold drafts from coming up through them in winter. The most thorough job of banking may be done on the outside of the building, but the frost will open up seams and cracks in the banking through which there will be a circulation of cold air. Covering the floor with several inches of earth will be some protection against this, but will not wholly do away with the bad effects of it.

There is nothing better than the dirt floor. This is conceded by perhaps nine-tenths of those who have had a lengthy experience in poultry keeping.

But certain attentions are necessary in order to prevent the dirt floor from becoming foul. It should be frequently gone over with a close toothed rake and as much of the filth as possible removed, and every fall several inches of the surface should be shoveled up and carted away, fresh earth being made to take its place. This is something which should on no account be neglected. It is the thing of first importance connected with the annual fall house cleaning.

The earth for this purpose should be good surface soil which may be taken from the garden if it cannot be conveniently obtained elsewhere. Don't use coarse, lumpy clay, which has been thrown out of somebody's cellar or cistern, and don't use sand and gravel. The latter is often made choice of under the mistaken idea that it will be of advantage to the fowls in the way of supplying them with grit. These rounded stones are of no service to the fowls for grinding purposes. Better run them through a crusher, or else buy the grit ready prepared. The poultryman who compels his fowls to look to such material as this for grit when they are kept in yards is very likely to have something happen to his flock which will cause him to suspicion that he is about to have a visitation of the cholera.

The several inches of earth which is taken from the floor of the poultry house every fall is too valuable to be thrown away. In fertilizing qualities it is superior to many of the commercial phosphates which are sold on the market. It should go on to the fruit or vegetable garden, and this constitutes another reason for making the floors of the houses of good soil instead of sand and gravel or clay. No gardener would want the latter on his land, as its objectionable mechanical condition would more than offset any good properties which it would possess as a fertilizer.

Like Produces Like.

Don't expect to get fine exhibition stock from second rate birds. For certain practical purposes second rate stock is as good as the best, but the production of exhibition birds is not one of them. We have known breeders who were always buying cheap stock, because it was cheap, and were always complaining about the unfairness of the judges who did the scoring at the poultry shows where these birds and their descendants were exhibited.

AN HOUR WELL SPENT.

If it is desired to persuade a flock of pullets to abandon the nursery coops and take up winter quarters in the poultry house which has been made ready for them, it is a good plan to confine them to the house for several days or a week. By this time they will have settled any little differences of opinion which may have come to the front when the different broods composing the flock were first thrown together, established agreeable family relations, and become somewhat reconciled to their new home. At the end of a week they may be allowed to leave the coop, and the time for giving them this liberty should be not more than an hour before sundown. Scatter some wheat on the outside and then open the door and let them come out. The wheat will keep them employed until it is time for them to go to roost, and most of the flock will return to the coop without any urging. Those that fail to do so must be caught and carried inside. This process must be repeated for two or three days in succession, always selecting the hour above named for permitting them to leave the house. This will prevent them from wandering away from the spot and taking up lodging in their old haunts or with some other flock. After reentering their new quarters several times, or being picked up and carried there, the flock is not likely to give any further trouble on this score provided the nursery coops have been removed from the location which they have occupied during the summer and placed where the pullets cannot find their way into them.

An hour spent in training the pullets to make their return to the house which it is intended they are to occupy during the winter will be the saving of much time, and perhaps considerable loss, later in the season. Left to themselves the pullets will scatter to some extent, some of them separating themselves from the flock and perching on some object outside, or associating themselves with some other pen. It is a tedious task to stand around for an hour in the dusk of an October evening using all your arts of flattery and persuasion upon a flock of idiotic pullets to the end that they may be induced to adopt as their home the comfortable place which you have provided for them. As darkness approaches their uneasiness increases.

They show that they are anxious to have the matter of their sleeping arrangements for the night settled, and yet are strongly of the opinion that any place is to be preferred for that purpose to the one which has been especially fitted for them. They will stand at the opening from which they emerged an hour before hesitating and considering and sagely communicating their suspicions to one another regarding the dangers which are lying in wait for them on the inside. It is no use to try to hurry them. The most that you can do is to keep them bunched close to the door and trust to fate. And you must be all gentleness and courtesy, or else you will have a scatteration which will completely spoil the job which you have undertaken. If you are a little lame in the virtue of patience the training is about as good for you as it is for the pullets.

This thing of getting the young stock nicely started in winter housekeeping is one of the important fall duties of the poultry keeper, and it is something which it will pay him to attend to right

THE BLACK LANGSHAN.

The writer has a very friendly feeling for the Black Langshan. We are not sure that it is any better fowl than the Plymouth Rock or the Wyandotte. Perhaps it will not lay any more eggs than either of these breeds, and we believe in table qualities it is generally admitted to be slightly inferior to them. But there is a docility, a sociability, about the Black Langshans which does not belong to any other breed. They actually enjoy being handled and petted. The owner of Langshans can pick them up anywhere about the yard if he has taken the least trouble to win their confidence. Under harsh treatment they are as shy as the Plymouth Rocks, but their natural disposition seems to be to court familiarity with and make a boon companion and chum of their keeper. Owners of the Black Langshans are always dead in love with their fowls.

The idea seems to prevail with many people who have never kept the Langshans that they are a clumsy, inactive fowl, being a close approach to the Cochins and Brahmas in this respect. This is a great mistake. There is really no difference between them and the Plymouth Rocks in point of activity.

They will run as fast, fly as high and forage as industriously as any of the general purpose breeds. The only objection which we find to them is their somewhat persistent tendency to broodiness. In our hands they have manifested this fault in greater degree than the Plymouth Rocks, though the experience of many others is that it is about the same in both breeds.

WHERE POULTRY KEEPING DON'T PAY.

It don't pay to raise poultry on the farm if all the care and labor of the undertaking falls on the already overworked farm wife. A large part of the poultry reared on the farms is the result of the wife's unassisted labor, and the time for so doing is snatched from other duties which are more than sufficient to keep her hands busy every moment of the day. It don't pay to raise poultry on the farm that way, and this wearied, overburdened wife knows it. And the husband ought to know it.

A woman who has all the cares of a farm household upon her cannot possibly give the requisite amount of attention to the poultry on the place without overtaxing her strength. This is more work than one woman can do and do as it ought to be done. The lighter parts of the task will be better done by her than by the "men folks," but there is certain kinds of drudgery connected with the work which ought to be performed by stronger arms than hers. If compelled to do so, she will get through with it somehow, but she does it at the expense of her health, and some day will have to pay the penalty of the imprudence.

The minds of farmers need to be disabused of the idea that poultry keeping is a small business—too small for the lordly tiller of the soil to be bothered with. So long as he holds to that idea the farm poultry will be only half cared for, or if properly kept, the burden of the work will fall upon the good wife and tempt her to impose a heavier task upon herself than she ought to be made to bear. In either case the poultry will be an expensive luxury. It won't pay to keep poultry in that way.

Gather up some road dust this month, sift it and put it away in a dry place for the dust bath during the winter. It will not freeze if you get it thoroughly dried out before freezing weather.

THEY CAN BE OVERFED.

Is it possible to overfeed a young and growing chicken? How many times have we been told that it cannot be done. And how implicitly we have believed it, and preached it and acted upon it. But our faith has wavered somewhat of late, and at times we could not altogether prevent the fact from leaking out of us. But this was heresy, and how quickly some of the faithful dropped on to us with the punishment which they deemed befitting such an offense. But we shall have no controversy on the subject. We admit that their doctrine is thoroughly orthodox, and yet we shall be free to say that we don't believe in it.

There was a time when our growing chickens received three full feeds a day. Of course they grew very fast and looked very nice and plump. When we let some acquaintance have one of them for his Sunday dinner he was sure to ask us the first time he saw us if we had any more of them which we would like to sell. They were so much better than anything which he could get on the market. There was no reason in the world why those chickens should not be fat, for they had nothing to do but to fill themselves three times a day and leisurely stroll about the yard or loaf around in the shade the balance of the time. There was no occasion for them to exercise, and they seemed to have a thorough understanding of that fact.

We had a neighbor, a very quick, observant fellow, with no flies on him. He was a subscriber to a dozen poultry papers and a close reader of them all, but he thought out things for himself and followed his own ideas however much they might differ from those who sat in the high places and poured out wisdom of the latest and most approved cut and style pertaining to poultry culture. For three or four months during the summer and fall this neighbor made it a rule not to feed his growing chickens anything but a light feed of mixed grain in the morning. He had a good range, and he compelled them to find almost their entire living for themselves. About the only attention which he paid to them was to see that they were supplied with fresh water, and their premises kept absolutely free from vermin. As they approached maturity he gradually increased the feed, giving them a mixed grain and meat ration, until he

had them on full feed. When he got fairly down to business he was a heavy feeder. The dangers of getting a laying hen too fat had no terrors for him. In a few weeks these thin-bodied, long-legged pullets were rounded out into matronly looking hens. And how they did lay. We are stating the actual facts of the case when we say that in all our experience we never had anything which was a circumstance to them in this respect until we borrowed from him the same general plan of management.

We think the MESSENGER has said enough on this subject in this and previous articles to the same effect. We want to reiterate the assertion, however, that despite the accepted theory that young chickens cannot be injured by overfeeding, we maintain that the theory is at fault. We have no fears that practical poultry keepers who adopt the above method will disagree with us on this point.

THE DROPPING BOARD.

It is to be regretted that some writers of prominence in the poultry journals are advocating the abolishment of the dropping board in the poultry house. They claim that it is a lice-harboring, bad smelling attachment which possesses some advantages, but which on the whole, is productive of more harm than good. The droppings, they contend, can just as easily be collected from the floor as the board, and if the floor is of earth, the absorption which takes place does away with the odors which would otherwise exist.

The dropping board should always be covered to the depth of half an inch with some absorbent material like sifted coal ashes or earth. After it is scraped off this should be replaced at once, and never on any account be neglected. When this is done the odors in the poultry house will not be any stronger by reason of the dropping board than they would be without it. It appears that they would be less, for every particle of the material which could give rise to them can be scraped clean from the board and carried outside, which is not possible when it is taken from the floor, without also removing a larger quantity of the earth than the owner would be willing to have carted off with each cleaning. And then the dropping board is the

saving of much labor. It makes it possible to rid the house of the most noxious substance that it contains in the least possible space of time. By means of it many poultry houses are kept measurably clean which would be in a more or less disordered condition without it. Numbers of people who keep poultry, but who are closely pressed with other cares, could find opportunity to clean the dropping board on many occasions when they could not possibly spare the time to rake the waste from the loose dirt of the floor.

The dropping board does form a collecting place for the lice. So do the perches and the nest boxes, but when the dropping board is rightly hinged to the wall it is the easiest movable thing in the house to keep free from the lice. It will not take the owner five minutes in a year to do all that is necessary to remove every objection which might attach to it on this score. On the whole, we think there is very little excuse for this attempt to underrate the value of what we have long regarded as one of the most useful appendages of the poultry house.

There's Medicine in a Fast.

A sick chicken will often be benefited more by a forty-eight hours fast than by any medicine which might be given to it. We saw this suggestion several years ago, we believe in the Poultry-Keeper, and have adopted it in numerous instances when we were not sure what the trouble was, and did not feel justified in torturing the fowl with experiments. Place in comfortable, though somewhat darkened quarters, set a vessel of water on the floor, and leave the fowl to itself. You will often be surprised to find a perfectly well and a very hungry chicken at the end of the fast, when you expected that it would be dead before the time was half spent.

Good Stock is Costly.

If you want to breed the best birds you must expect to pay for your breeding stock about what it is worth. People who own this kind of stock know its value. They know, too, that it is salable at its full value, and that there is no need of letting it go at half price.

Five copies of the MESSENGER will be sent for one dollar. Each of our subscribers could obtain us a club of that size with very little effort.

A NEEDLESS WASTE.

It is simply a waste of time and feed to coop up a lot of old hens during the winter expecting them to lay enough eggs to pay for what they eat. Every one who keeps poultry should make it a part of his early fall duties to go through his flock and take out all the hens which are three years old. As for ourself, we prefer pullets for winter layers, but there are some advantages in keeping one and two year old hens for breeding purposes. But when a hen gets to be three years old the proper thing to do with her is to send her to market.

We find that a large proportion of the people who keep poultry in the ordinary way know very little about the ages of the birds in their flock. It has been their aim to kill off the older ones as they needed them for table use, and it is their opinion that the most of those which remain are young stock. And very often the truth of the matter is that at least half of their flock is made up of old birds, many of which nobody would have at any price if they knew their age.

It is no easy matter to go through a flock of chickens made up of fowls of all ages and pick out the one and two year old birds. Some believe that they can do it, no doubt, but there is considerable guess work about it when they undertake the job. There is no certain way of determining a hen's age after she has arrived at her maturity. An experienced hand can usually tell a very old hen from a very young one, but even a very close observing poultryman cannot always be correct in doing this; and it is all uncertainty when it comes to separating the one year old birds from those which are two and three years old.

The best time to do this culling out is in the fall before the pullets have fully attained their growth. If the task is put off until the middle of the winter it will be made more or less confusing on account of the size of the pullets, all of which it will be necessary to handle and examine to prevent them from being classed with the old stock.

A Needful Experience.

It it is the reader's intention to hatch out anything over a hundred chicks next season, let him make up his mind now to do it with an incubator if he can

possibly afford the expense of such a machine. It will not pay him to buy an incubator for the purpose of hatching out one or even two hundred chicks, except in the experience. If he continues in the poultry business, he does not want to depend upon hens for hatching his chicks, and the sooner he puts himself in the way of learning how to successfully handle an incubator, the better it will be for him. And it should be understood that it takes a little time and experimenting to acquire the necessary knowledge to do this.

AS GOOD AS THE BEST.

Editor MESSENGER:—I have about one hundred full blood White Plymouth Rock pullets and hens. It is good stock, but I have been thinking that it is a bit old fashioned, and have been wondering if it would not pay me to get rid of them and take something more modern. The buffs seem to be the taking color now, and I have half a mind to sell my White Plymouth Rocks next spring and get a start in something of that color. What would be your advice in the matter?

S. S. STARP.

Luverne, Minnesota.

We should judge from expressions contained in a separate sheet which accompanies Mr. Starp's letter that he is a farmer, and looks to the eggs as his main source of profit from his chickens. If, as he says, he has a fine flock of White Plymouth Rocks, our advice to him is to hold on to them. For his purpose he cannot find anything better. It will put him to considerable expense to stock his place with any of the buff varieties, and after he has them he is likely to find it a difficult matter to keep the color right. It is true when he is fortunate enough to obtain a really fine specimen it will sell for a higher price than a White Plymouth Rock which is equally good: but he will have fewer of them to sell. The White Plymouth Rock is an ideal farmer's fowl. For this purpose there is nothing in the standard to be preferred to it.

We have nothing to say against the buffs. The color does not make against the distinctive qualities of the breed. So far as we know a Buff Plymouth Rock or a Buff Wyandotte is for all practical purposes about the same as birds of the same breed of any other color. But most of the buffs are comparatively new varieties, and it is no easy task even for those who have had the most to do with them to keep them

of an even color. While it is true the buffs are the fashion at the present time, we would regard it as a very unwise move on the part of a farmer to dispose of a carefully bred flock of White Plymouth Rocks and take all the uncertainties of making a larger profit from any variety of the buffs.

Standard Buff LEGHORNS

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large, 4-page '95 circular free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks, and prize winners, scoring 94½ by Felch to 93½ by Drevenstedt. Also Black Javas and Columbian Wyandottes. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,

Battle Creek, Mich.

**Do You Love Baby?**

Our Combined Suspended

Springing Baby's Bed, Play Yard, Tender and Walker

Saves Mother care and trouble, a comfort and a delight to baby, safe, clean and healthful, endorsed by physicians, mothers and nurses. Postal for catalogue.

S. L. BRIGGS M'FG CO.,

TOLEDO, OHIO.

VARIETY OF FEED.

Variety of feed in the poultry yard is all important. Chickens may be fed abundantly and yet be poorly fed. In its natural state the fowl obtains a greatly mixed ration, and the nearer approach to this that we can make when keeping it under artificial conditions, the more satisfactory the results will be.

The grains are all very cheap this season, and there will be no excuse for a person who keeps poultry for not having a variety of them. Lay in now as large a supply as circumstances will admit of, and settle upon a system of feeding for the winter. It always makes bad work if one happens to run short of some important article after the hens have got nicely started to laying and several days are allowed to elapse before it is replaced. There is always a waste of time in getting the machinery started again after the fires have been permitted to burn low and the speed checked. Regularity in time of feeding, and in amount and quality of food, is the all important thing in the care of a flock of poultry.

Feed most of the grains whole. Aside from what is given the fowls in the morning mash, and this should not be more than half what they will eat, the grain had better be given to them mixed but unground. Corn, wheat and oats must of course be the main reliance, but it will pay one well to combine with these a small proportion of barley, millet and sunflower seed. The poultryman cannot possibly put his time to any better use than in skirmishing about the neighborhood for the purpose of getting a mixture together such as good judgment founded on experience would approve of.

The importance of properly proportioning the different articles which enter into the composition of the ration for the fowls, cannot be overestimated. Without this all the work, and care, and expense, go for nothing. Fine stock, warm houses, unwearied attention will result only in disappointment and loss unless the food is given, not in sufficient amount, for nearly all poultrymen do that, but in the variety required to make up a well proportioned ration. This is a hackneyed subject, and no doubt many get weary of its incessant repetition in the papers, but as a matter of fact it is not worked

over any oftener than its importance demands.

TARRED PAPER.

As a lining for the inside of poultry houses, we have not found anything which we considered superior to the ordinary tarred building paper. We are firmly of the opinion that the odor of it is offensive to lice, as even when their presence is detected in the poultry house they will generally be found on surfaces distant from the paper.

The liberal use of tarred paper will make a very crazily constructed building a comfortable place for chickens in the winter. A single layer of it carefully spread over the inside of the walls, the joints being well lapped, and the whole held in place by means of laths, will keep out all drafts, and will keep the house at a comfortable temperature even though the walls are not as tight as they should be.

A building which is not plastered, or else banked from floor to eaves, should have a layer of heavy paper of some kind on the walls. It cannot at any reasonable expense be made warm enough without it, however well the woodwork may be done. The paper when well put on keeps out all drafts, and that is the important thing to provide against in the construction of a winter poultry house.

THEY NEED MEAT.

It is asserted on good authority that young chickens, though kept in yards, will develop faster on a liberal meat diet composed of cooked beef scraps, than if given the most ample range and deprived of meat other than they would pick up in the shape of bugs and grasshoppers. No one would want to keep young chickens shut up in a yard and deprived of the exercise so much to their advantage when running at large. But the above goes to show the importance of meat as part of the feed of young and growing chickens. There is good grounds for the belief that this is not as well understood as it should be, and as a rule it is given in far less quantity than required. Feed meat plentifully to the young stock; feed it cooked if possible, but feed it in any form except in the disgusting one of maggots, which has been suggested by some writers on this subject.

"Bean's Buffs"

We make a specialty of breeding all BUFF FOWLS in their purity.

150 CHICKS 150
Bred From Winners

At the Minnesota State Fair September, 1894, and Minneapolis January 1895, for sale after October 1st.

100 Breeders for Sale Now

scoring from 90 to 93. Prices reasonable. Quality to govern. Also dealer in a full line of

Poultry Supplies

And Specialties of all kinds at Rock Bottom Prices. Terms cash. Circular and price list free if you mention the MESSENGER.

Anoka Buff Poultry Yards.
Lock Box 72, ANOKA, MINN.

THESE TWO

—AND—
The Cherokee
Weekly Times
Laws AND Legal
Forms of Iowa.

We have issued a neat little volume containing an able and thoroughly reliable compilation of the Laws of Iowa. It is written in a style that anyone can readily understand, being free from the perplexing verbiage of the code.

We believe this volume will prove of real and practical benefit to all classes of our people.

We offer the book and the Times for one year, for

ONLY \$1.50

Or the book alone for 50 cents.

Address orders to—

THE TIMES,
CHEROKEE, IOWA.

The Best Method of Increasing the Interest of Farmers in Thoroughbred Poultry.

[Written by A. L. Belew, of Aurelia, Iowa, for Inter-State Poultryman, Tiffin, Ohio.]

The best means which can be made use of to induce farmers to keep thoroughbred poultry, is to get them to take the poultry papers. No farmer who reads a good poultry paper will keep scrub fowls. There will be no exception to this. This would prove, as the patent medicine men would say, an "unfailing remedy," but, unfortunately, the remedy is one which cannot be made of general application. Only a very small per cent of farmers will become subscribers to the poultry papers. They cannot be persuaded or argued into doing it. It is a rare thing to find a poultry paper in the home of even intelligent farmers who recognize the importance of keeping read up on every other branch of their calling. The only source of information possessed by the majority of farmers on the subject of poultry keeping, outside of their personal experience, is the poultry department in the agricultural papers; and however well edited this may be, it must, from the nature of things, be very imperfect in comparison with any one of the well conducted poultry journals of the day.

The poultry breeders of a locality will accomplish very little in the way of creating an interest in improved or thoroughbred poultry, outside of their own ranks, if they each operate independent of the others. They must organize a poultry club, or enter into some kind of association and work in concert, if they want to impress others with a correct idea of the many advantages possessed by thoroughbreds over scrubs. By making the most of such means as these, a dozen active, intelligent breeders will soon work up an interest in thoroughbred poultry which will be participated in to some extent by half of the community. They will invent ways to get their fowls before the public and have them seen and talked about. Some time during the year when the farmers are not particularly busy they will advertise a mimic poultry show in the nearest village. Specimens of all the breeds kept by the association will be on exhibition, and a judge will be present who will score

the fowls in the presence of the visitors. The judge must not be omitted, as he will be one of the most important features of the affair. The scoring will be something new to the majority of those in attendance, and will be of interest to all of them. If good sense and tact are employed in connection with the details of such a show, it will give a marked impetus to the breeding of thoroughbred poultry in that community, and the breeders will be well repaid for the special effort required to bring it about.

We have often thought that the breeder of thoroughbred poultry did not set a proper value upon the county fair, as a means of awakening a greater interest in the subject of poultry keeping. The exhibit of thoroughbred poultry at the county fair, nearly always comes far short of what it ought to be. It is true that the conveniences for making a proper exhibit are usually very imperfect, but if the poultry keepers of the county would join in an effort to have them improved, better quarters would be fitted up for their accommodation. It is probably safe to say that the county fair is regularly visited by half of the farmers of the county, and furnishes the keepers of thoroughbred poultry their best opportunity for producing a favorable impression upon the minds of the people whom they are most anxious to win to the newer and better ways of poultry keeping. If a quantity of circulars or low priced pamphlets are provided, strongly but truthfully setting forth the superiority of thoroughbred poultry, and freely distributed among the people, it will materially assist in attaining the object desired. The resident keepers of thoroughbred poultry in any county could easily double their business by fully making use of the advantages offered them by the county fair.

The county or village newspaper is another neglected agency for widening the interest in thoroughbred poultry. Poultrymen will find that the editors of these papers will be pleased to publish an occasional well written article on this subject. Write what you know about thoroughbred poultry, giving truthful statements of its value over common stock. Tell something about your profits from fifty or a hundred hens. Don't exaggerate—there is no need to do so. Hundreds of farmers will read these statements and will be

quick to see the point.

The above are only a few of the ways which are open to us for converting others to our belief in regard to thoroughbred poultry. It is our candid belief that if the opportunities here referred to were improved to the fullest extent, the scrub hen would soon disappear from the majority of the farms.

Having concluded to devote all my spare time to the perfecting of my Buff Wyandottes, I offer my

White Crested

BLACK POLISH AT A BARGAIN.

8 pullets, 5 hens and four cockerels, and the first

\$15.00

takes the lot. Address

P. D. WINE, Aurelia, Iowa.

RUTHERFORD BROS.

—BREEDERS OF—

* White Wonders.

The hardest of all fowls, and the best general purpose breed for the north.
AURELIA, IOWA.

Pilot Rock NURSERIES

The best of everything in the line of nursery stock at

Hard Times Prices.

I am prepared to fill orders for fruit trees in any amount, blackberry raspberry and strawberry plants, EVERGREENS AND

FOREST TREES.

And, in fact, everything which can be supplied by any first-class nursery.

Write for Price List,

Or call at nursery two miles east, and two and a half miles south of Cherokee, Iowa. Address

PILOT ROCK NURSERIES,
Cherokee, Iowa.

USEFUL BUT NOT ORNAMENTAL

Many persons are deterred from keeping poultry by the expense of providing what they deem suitable buildings for the purpose. It is pretty well understood at this day that there is no use in trying to obtain eggs in winter without giving the hens a house which will protect them from the severity of the weather. It is a mistake to suppose that such a house must necessarily be a costly affair. If one is not particular about appearances he can construct as comfortable a house as can be made at an expense which will be easily within the reach of the slenderest income. And on many farms where the house can be partly or wholly concealed from the public thoroughfare or the dwelling, its appearance is not a matter of much consequence. A house such as we have in mind can be made of straw, poles from the grove, and waste pieces of lumber. It will have to be rebuilt every year, but while it lasts it answers the purpose fully as well as anything which can be made.

A farmer once told us of a plan which he has adopted for wintering a portion of his hens, and this always occurs to us when we hear people say that they would like to keep chickens but cannot afford to put up the buildings which would be required. Every fall this man selects out a hundred hens for winter layers, giving the preference to pullets if he can find that number among the April and May hatched broods. He then fits up two houses in the grove, separated by a distance of twenty rods or more, for their accommodation. The houses are nothing more than a rudely constructed frame work of posts and poles, banked about with straw and covered with slough hay. The interior of these houses are ten by twenty feet, standing north and south. No provision is made for closing the end opening to the south. Owing to the heavy covering of straw, the house is always comfortable at the rear end where the perches and nest boxes were located. During the heaviest storms the snow does not blow into the open front to exceed half the length of the building, and it is the work of only a few minutes to remove the little that accumulated in and about the entrance.

Fifty hens are put into each of these houses, and when properly fed and cared for they go through the winter

in the best of shape, and, meanwhile, give their owner a plentiful supply of eggs. Every summer the straw is pulled away from the frame work, and a fresh lot brought from the stack and put in its place, the supports being first whitewashed, and the floor well cleaned and sprinkled with air slacked lime.

This is not a model poultry house, but it is an inexpensive and serviceable makeshift, and we should certainly make use of it if we were conveniently located for so doing, and had nothing better. We have thought, however, that we should add to it cloth covered doors with which to close the entrance during cold south winds and in stormy weather.

LARGE AND SMALL COMBS.

It requires better attention and care than the average poultry keeper will give to his fowls to prevent the freezing of large combs in winter. In the extreme north, all else being equal, the preference should be given to fowls with pea or rose combs. Hens with badly frosted combs as a usual thing do not lay, no matter how well they may be treated. It requires a warmer poultry house than most people possess in the north to entirely save the combs of even such a breed as the Plymouth Rocks, and the single comb Leghorns will present a sorry appearance after a few weeks of very cold weather if the housing is not better than that provided by people who are reasonably particular about the shelter which they give to their fowls. A fowl never gets over the disfigurement of a severely frosted comb, and when a whole flock has suffered in this way the owner is certain to lose a large share of the pride and satisfaction which he would otherwise have in the birds. Many breeders have special reasons for keeping the large combed varieties, and these persons will take the necessary means to prevent injury to the combs

by the cold; but those who keep poultry in the ordinary way, and for ordinary purposes, will find that all things considered, they will be gainers by giving their choice to fowls with the small combs. Those who make a business of poultry keeping will see to it that they are housed in quarters which will not endanger the combs of any breed to which they might devote their attention. But those of less experience should understand that they must either provide coops of the first-class, or else content themselves with keeping some other than the large combed, non-sitting variety of fowls.

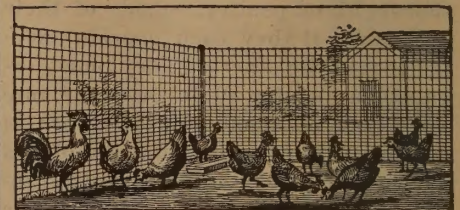
Send us the names of four subscribers and one dollar, and we will send the MESSENGER to your address one year free.

Frederick E. Coleman,
Manchester Green, Conn.
—BREEDER OF—

Barred Plymouth Rocks
W. C. Black Polish.

Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13, \$2.00 per 26. A year's subscription to the MESSENGER with every order if you mention paper. Good stock and fair play. Write for prices of stock.

POULTRY DISEASES The most valuable treatise on Roup, Sorehead, diphtheritic sore throat, Canker mouth, Catarrh, etc., ever written. **Absolutely free.** Send 3 cents in stamps to pay postage.
WALTER KIRBY & CO., Marietta, O.



CABLED POULTRY AND GARDEN FENCE,
Manufactured by
DEKALB FENCE CO., DEKALB, ILL.
112 High Street.

Ship Your Produce Direct TO MARKET.

It is the only way to get the true value of what you have to sell. It is no longer an experiment. Our shippers testify to it every day. We receive and sell: **Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Veal, Game, Hay, Grain, Beans, Seeds, Potatoes, Broom Corn, Hides, Wool, Green and Dried Fruit, Vegetables.** or anything you may have to ship. We make prompt sales at the Highest Market Price and send quick returns. Write us for Prices, Shipping Tags, or any information you may want.

SUMMERS, MORRISON & CO., Commission Merchants,
174 South Water Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

References: Metropolitan National Bank, Chicago, and this paper.

Some Women

Wear skirts that sag in spite of pins and belts.

The Alpine Skirt Retainer

Remedies all that. It can readily be applied to any costume. It holds the skirt and blouse in position, prevents exposure of underskirt, and is simple and inexpensive. For sale by all leading dry goods dealers, or for 10 cents in stamps, we will mail you a sample from the factory. Address

Alpine MFG Company,
Pittston, Pa.

Books For Fanciers.

Artificial Incubation and Brooding.

The latest work on the subject; well edited, bound and profusely illustrated. Price..... \$1.00

Five Hundred Questions and Answers

On poultry raising, New edition, just out. "It's a mine of information." Price..... .25

The A B C of Poultry Culture.

A work growing out of 25 years experience. Indispensable to the amateur. It is original and practical. Price .25

Low Cost Poultry Houses.

This Book of plans, specifications and descriptions tells how to build them. Price..... .25

The Poultry Architect.

This book illustrates 117 designs and plans of poultry houses, coops, fences, roosts, nest boxes, feed troughs and other necessities for the poultry yard. Price..... .25

Egg Record an Account Book.

The greatest aid yet gotten up for keeping a strict record and account of the poultry business. Price..... .25

All About Broilers.

(M. K. Boyer). A complete and practical compendium, giving the methods of successful broiler raisers in Hamonton, N. J. Price..... .25

Profitable Poultry Farming.

(M. K. Boyer). A practical little book of interest to market poultrymen. Price..... .25

Catalogue of poultry supplies, books, &c., for a 2-cent stamp.

W. W. CLOUGH,
Medway, Mass.

We believe that the value of cut clover as a winter ration has been overestimated by some people, but it is a very valuable feed for all that, and we should not like to undertake the job of carrying a lot of hens through the winter at a profit without it. Clover is not everything. It is only one of a great variety of articles which should be provided for the winter feeding. It will not do to depend too much upon clover any more than upon wheat, corn or oats. The failure to keep this fact in mind has led many people to first overvalue the clover, and afterwards to lose faith in it, and even to discard the use of it altogether.

Lay aside a few of the pumpkins and squashes for the chickens. Don't give them all to the cow. Cut one of them in two every day and put in the oven of the kitchen stove, if the powers which reign in that part of the household will permit it. Baked squash fed warm makes an excellent noon lunch for the hens. Try feeding it a week and see if you do not discover the benefits of it.

The Iowa Homestead, now in its fortieth year, still continues to occupy the front rank among the agricultural papers of the country. Its editorials are always interesting, practical and timely, and thousands of its readers unite in testifying that they save them many times the subscription price during the year. Its Sheep, Horticultural, Poultry, Veterinary and Dairy Departments are ably conducted and always full of useful, practical information in relation to these specialties, and its Home Department, teeming with a wealth of editorial suggestions and bright, crisp contributions, proves to be just what farmers' wives and daughters need to lighten their daily labor and brighten their daily lives. As an all round farm paper the Homestead has no superior, and its twenty-four ample pages each week contain something of interest and instruction for every member of the farmer's household. Send for free sample copies. Subscription price \$1 per year. Address, Homestead Co., Des Moines, Iowa.

Good Birds at Rock Bottom Prices.

Pure bred Black Langshans of both sexes. Cockerels \$1 each, pullets 50 cents. Also Light Brahma cockerels at same price. No better stock in Iowa. MRS. J. S. BOYNTON, Clarion, Wright county, Iowa.

LADIES Make big money, quick sales and lasting customers selling our Mackintosh skirts and other new goods. Be first to sell them. Fresh territory. Catalogue free.

LADIES SUPPLY Co., 3118, Forest Ave., Chicago.

ROUP.

A Treatise on Roup in All Its Forms, Including Catarrh, Roup Proper, Diptheretic Roup, Sore Head, Canker, Etc.

The above is a little pamphlet of a dozen pages written by J. H. Davis, editor of the Fanciers' Review, for Walter Kirby & Co. It is probably the best treatise on that subject in brief form which has ever been prepared. We will send the MESSENGER for three months and the pamphlet to any address for only ten cents.

RAIL ROAD Lands

FOR SALE AT LOW PRICES AND ON EASY TERMS.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company offers for sale on easy terms and at low prices, 150,000 acres of choice fruit, gardening, farm and grazing lands located in

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

They are also largely interested in, and call especial attention to the 600,000 acres of land in the famous

Yazoo Valley OF MISSISSIPPI

lying along and owned by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, and which that company offers at low prices and on long terms. Special inducements and facilities offered to go and examine these lands both in Southern Illinois and in the Yazoo Valley, Miss. For further description, map and any information, address or call upon E. P. SKENE, Land Commissioner, No. 1 Park Row, Chicago, Ill., or G. W. McGINNIS, Ass't Land Commissioner, Memphis; Tenn.

P AND B COVER YOUR ROOF WITH RUBEROID ROOFING

Will not taint water, Anyone can lay it. Outwears iron or shingles.

The Cheapest and Best cover ever put on a roof. The P. & B. building papers have no equal. Send for samples and prices. Also sample AMERICAN POULTRYMAN. POULTRYMAN PUB. CO. GEN. AGENTS, DODGEVILLE, WIS.

Also Webster & Hannum bone cutters Simplex Hatchers, Supplies, Etc

The Poultry Messenger,

AND

Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the first of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year.

ADVERTISING RATES.--Sixty Cents per
Inch, each insertion. Contracts under these
rates will be limited to six months.

Breeders Cards.—Set in plain type,
without display, one cent per word each
insertion. No advertisement inserted
for less than 25 cents.

An old employe of the express companies, which charge double first-class rates for carrying breeding fowls, calls attention to the fact that these institutions are never guilty of the act of paying double first-class wages to an employe, no matter what the character of the service rendered.

The Poultry Tribune is a new paper just started at Freeport, Illinois. It is a handsome 20-page journal, and has every appearance of having come to stay. This means more grief for the generous souled editor of Farm-Poultry. Is there to be no end to this kind of torture for that noble creature?

The poultry fence made by the Winona Fence Company, while close enough to confine chickens, is strong enough to turn any kind of stock. Those in want of something in the way of fencing stouter than the ordinary wire netting will find a fence suited to their needs in that which is manufactured by the above named company.

Mr. F. E. Coleman, of Manchester Green, Connecticut, writes that he makes it a rule to subscribe for every new poultry paper which makes its appearance. He does this not because he so much feels the need of instruction, but because, as a keeper of poultry, he expects to be benefitted to some extent by every one of these papers, and feels in duty bound to contribute something towards their support. We take off our hat to Mr. Coleman. He is evidently of the salt of the earth. May his shadow never grow less.

The goods which are manufactured by the Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Michigan, need no recommendation

to those who have used them. To those who have not we shall say that there is nothing of this kind on the market which is superior to the goods of this firm. Our readers are advised to give them a trial. Those who have not in the past made use of anything of this nature will find that it is money well invested to lay in a supply for the winter.

Don't ask the editor of your poultry paper which is the best incubator. In the first place he doesn't know. He has not tried the half of the incubators which are made and can only speak with certainty of those with which he has had experience. There are many others which he has never seen, and, perhaps never heard of. It would not be just for him to declare that those of a certain manufacture are best because they have done better in his hands than any other which he has tested. If you will ask the editor if the Reliable, the Monarch, the Excelsior, or any other incubator, is a good servicable machine, he will frankly tell you what he thinks about it; but however well he thinks of either of them he will not imperil his reputation for truth and fairness by declaring that there is nothing else in existence which is quite the equal of it. This is a question which is frequently put to the editors of poultry papers, and correspondents often get out of patience with them because they will not give a definite answer to it. Reflective people ought to be able to see why they so persistently refuse to do this.

The well known commission house, Summers, Morrison & Co., of Chicago, place an advertisement with us this month. This is one of the best known commission firms in Chicago, and none of our western readers can make any better disposition of their eggs and market stock than to send it to them. Don't sell your chickens to the huckster, and don't send them to some third or fourth rate city. Chicago prices are the best prices, and the western poultryman can always have these provided his selling is done through a reputable firm. The most successful Iowa poultry breeders of our acquaintance make it a rule to send all their market stock to Chicago, and not a few of them do all their business through this firm of Summers, Morrison & Co. The MESSENGER people know this firm, and we have no hesitation in recommending it to our patrons.

A Book for Young Men.

EDWARD BOK, the editor of The Ladies' Home Journal, has written a book for young men called "Successward: A Young Man's Book for Young Men," which the Revells will publish in a fortnight. The book aims to cover all the important phases of a young man's life: his business life, social life, his amusements, religious life, dress, his attitude toward women and the question of his marriage. This is Mr. Bok's first book.

The October number of the DELINEATOR is called the autumn number, and contains a choice and varied selection of timely articles. It gives an authoritative exposition of Autumn Styles, illustrating a variety of novel, artistic and beautiful garments. Especially complete and valuable is its discussion of Mourning, Mrs. Roger A. Pryor's paper on Etiquette of Grief's outward showing being supplemented by an instructive article giving patterns and designs for Mourning Attire. Every mother with the responsibilities of a household should study what is said about Fitting Out a Family, the season's costume, needs of herself and her little ones being fully treated.

SUCCESS WITH POULTRY.

This is a new work on poultry, compiled and written by the editor of THE RELIABLE POULTRY JOURNAL. It is meant as a source of timely information to persons who are thinking of engaging in the poultry business on a large scale for profit. It has just been published, and is believed to be the most complete work on the subject to date. There is not a dead line in it. The book is handsomely illustrated with etchings and half-tones, showing the leading breeds of fowls, practical poultry houses, views and plans of poultry farms, views and plans of broiler houses, valuable matter on the care of adult fowls, the care of brooder chicks, on artificial incubation, rules for operating incubators and brooders, directions for caponizing, preparing and shipping poultry to market, etc.

The publisher's price for this book is \$1. Any person sending ONE DOLLAR to this office will receive a copy of "Success with Poultry" (postpaid) and THE RELIABLE POULTRY JOURNAL for one entire year.

Address, RELIABLE POULTRY JOURNAL, Quincy, Ill.

CULTIVATION.

The advantage of keeping the ground about young fruit trees under cultivation is not as well understood as it might be. Nothing retards the growth of a tree more than the formation of a sod about its roots. A tree thus situated may keep alive a number of years, and yet make a growth which is hardly perceptible from one season to another.

Three years ago last spring the writer brought on to his grounds a lot of young apple and cherry trees. The apple trees were planted in rows where it would be convenient to run the cultivator among them, and the ground about them has been kept loose and free from weeds ever since they were planted. These trees have grown at a rate far exceeding anything which we expected of them, and many of them would have matured a crop of apples this season if we had allowed them to do so.

The cherry trees were planted in grass grown nooks and corners about the yards. They were carefully planted, but received no regular attention afterwards. They were mulched with coarse manure, but this was soon scratched away by the chickens, and since then they have been generally neglected, except that they have not been run over and abused by the stock. In passing among these trees recently the thought struck us that they presented a miserably small and stunted appearance, considering what might be expected of trees which had been planted three years before. The stems had probably doubled their size, but the branches had not made a growth of ten inches in the whole three years. A thick, close sod has formed over the roots, and we are not quite sure that the right thing for us to do is to break it up and loosen the earth about the trees so late as this in the season. But we shall not fail to do so next spring, and if the trees do not make more of a growth during the following summer than they have in the whole three years since they were planted we shall be deceived. We are sure that the want of cultivation is all that ails the trees.

We occasionally meet with people who dispute the necessity of cultivating the ground about newly set fruit trees. A farmer recently told us that the best treatment a young orchard could receive was to allow it to grow

up to weeds. And the state of a young orchard on this man's farm was evidence of the fact that he had faith in his theory. This man, too, had many bitter complaints to lay at the doors of nurserymen who had taken a lot of money from him for trees which had failed to grow. Is he, or is he not, a fair example of that numerous class which believes there is no honesty among nurserymen?

ABUNDANCE PLUM.

So many fine things are being said about the Abundance plum that there is great danger of it being rated above its actual merits. It is beyond doubt an excellent variety and is worthy of all the praise it has received in those localities where it has been yielding such abundant crops. But it is still on trial in the northwest. It has not yet been shown that it is adapted to the conditions which it must here meet with, and the planting of it must be regarded in the way of an experiment. We have no reason to doubt the truth

of the favorable reports which are made concerning it in other localities, and some of them not very distant from our own; but these reports have very little to do with deciding the question of its adaption to this open prairie region of the northwest. The excellent reputation which it has won in the southern half of Iowa and in parts of Illinois will be made use of to effect sales in latitudes where the character of soil and climatic conditions are distinctly different. There will be no lack of agents with convincing arguments to show that nobody can expect to be altogether happy in the future who fails to buy a lot of these trees. Go a little slow on the Abundance plum. Buy a few of them as an experiment. It might be money well spent to buy a big lot of them, but don't do it unless you have money to waste.

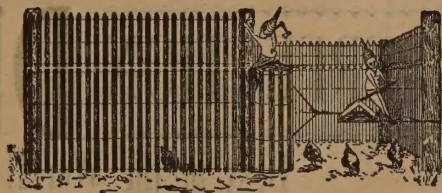
Pears are too uncertain in the northwest for general cultivation. Don't pay out money for pear trees without understanding that they are at best an experiment.

Bone and Shell FOR POULTRY.

Circular explaining benefit and how to feed it, and prices on lots of 100 lbs or more, delivered, freight paid at your railroad station, address

Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Mich.

Raw Bone has been proven by analysis to contain every part of an egg—White, Yolk and Shell. The lime of oyster shell furnishes shell material. The granulated size is for adult fowls; the meal is for chicks, and mixed with soft food. For



Is held in the highest favor wherever used.

The Only Practical Portable Fence Made.

Send for full particulars and prices to the

WINONA FENCE CO.

Sole and only manufacturers, WINONA, MINN.

You Should Take the

Michigan Poultry Breeder.

A 20-page poultry paper devoted to poultry, pigeons, pet stock, diseases, remedies, etc. A paper that every breeder should have to refer to, only 50 cts a year. Sample copy, 6 cents.

Game Fanciers' Journal.

The oldest, cheapest, largest and best paper published, entirely devoted to the interest of the game fancier, breeder and cocker. Only 50 cents a year. Sample copy, 6 cents.

GEO. S. BARNES,
Battle Creek, Mich

WE PLANTED THEM IN JUNE.

Last spring we advised our readers to postpone the planting of their Hubbard squashes until the first of June. About the middle of the summer some of them informed us that they had followed our advice as an experiment and that they were well convinced that the first of June is too late for planting Hubbard squashes.

The editor of this department planted his Hubbard squash seed the present season on the third of June, and we are of the opinion that the crop is the finest which we have ever raised. We didn't spend a minute in protecting them from the great enemy of the squash family, the striped bugs. These bugs were about gone before the vines came through the ground. They had a healthy, uninterrupted growth from the start, and in six weeks from the time of planting they gave promise of a better crop than others which had had a month the start of them, but suffered the usual backset in their contest with the bugs.

Those in the north who raise Hubbard squash on a large scale for market make it a rule to plant the seed about the first of June. Hundreds of carloads are thus grown every year in the northern borders of the United States. They are grown in an extensive way in parts of Michigan and northern Illinois, and Boston, and other New England cities draw the main part of their supply from this section of the country. Very little of the material which enters into the famous New England pumpkin pie, is produced in New England.

We cannot understand why those of our readers who have addressed us on this point in the manner above stated failed to obtain a crop, as our own experience this season has only served to confirm the views which we have held for several years in regard to the proper time of planting.

Deep Planting of the Grape.

Plant the grape vines deep. A foot or eighteen inches is none too deep. We have the word of Prof. J. L. Budd that vines which were planted at the last named depth on the experimental grounds at Ames, did exceedingly well. But few people without experience in grape culture would think such deep planting necessary, or even advisable.

Nonpareil Poultry Yards.

CONLEY & CO.
Proprietors.
La Salle, Ill.

—BREEDERS OF—

Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, Rose and S. C. Minorcas, B. Langshans and Partridge Cochins,

Exhibition Stock a Specialty. Pekin Ducks.

STOCK FOR SALE.

Our Breeders are ALL exhibition stock. We can furnish you with what you want, if you want something first-class. Write us for description and prices.



B. Plymouth Rocks.

* EXCLUSIVELY *

No world beaters, but nice, shapely, well colored stock, the equal of anything which can be obtained for practical purposes. Stock for sale after October 1st. Write for prices.

T. C. CREPPS, Aurelia, Iowa.

A. L. BELEW, AURELIA, Iowa,

◆◆◆BREEDER OF◆◆◆

BLACK LANGSHANS

Some choice young cockerals for sale at one dollar each.

DO NOT DAM



AGE YOUR HANDS BUT USE A

PERFECTION Dish Washer

Best in the World! A Complete Success!

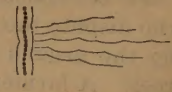
Every Washer guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or no sale. Simple, practical, durable and cheap. Should be in every home. Washes and polishes all the dishes of either large or small family in two minutes at one washing. Utterly impossible to break or chip a dish while being washed by the Perfection. A child of eight years operates it easily. No more chapped or soiled hands. No more scalded fingers or soiled clothing. By using the "PERFECTION" the drudgery of washing dishes is a thing of the past.

Demand is Universal. Sells at Sight. Price \$5.00.
AGENTS WANTED.

Perfection Manufacturing Company.

644 63d Street

Englewood, Illinois.

White Plymouth Rocks. 
ALFRED ANDREY, CHOICE STOCK
Aurelia, Iowa.

BUFF WYANDOTTES,

A lot of fine

Cockerels for Sale.

WRITE FOR PRICES.

P. D. WINE, Aurelia, Iowa

Farmers Should Experiment



And not always take the word of interested parties. Very few of them have any idea how much the common soft wire will stretch. They may have been led to believe it a mere trifle. It is an easy matter to prove that a No. 9. wire, under a strain of about 1000 pounds will stretch from 1 to 1 1/4 inches per foot and it never takes up its own slack. That accounts for those little end ratchets filling up so rapidly. Our local agent will furnish a powerful stretcher for this experiment. PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Michigan. MUMMERT & O'NEAL, Agents, Aurelia, Iowa.

JOB PRINTING

FOR
Poultry-Keepers.

One Hundred Envelopes,
One Hundred Notheads
One Hundred Cards,

FOR \$1.50

Tableted, securely packed, and delivered free of charge to the person sending in the order. No poultry-keeper should think of doing without printed stationery when it can be had in small lots at such a low price as this. Send all orders to THE MESSENGER COMPANY, Aurelia, Iowa.

Music Lovers

Learn to play any instrument

Without a Teacher.

Send 50c. for Self Instructor.

Also for professional strings for Violin, Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar. Per set 50c. postpaid. Stamps taken.

I. M. MARSH, Delavan, Illinois.

Give us a chance to do your

Job Work.

Send for Samples and Prices.

COL. JOSEPH LEFFEL,

Smallest
Business Man
In the World.

Springfield, Ohio.

46 inches high, 60 years old, weight 62 pounds. Breeder of all varieties of

Poultry,

Pigeons, Rabbits, Ferrets, Guinea Pigs, Maltese Cats, Fine Dogs and

SHETLAND PONIES.

Send us four subscribers accompanied with one dollar, and we will send the MESSENGER to you a year free.



This Elegant
'New Rochester'
Nickel or Gilt
Sewing
Lamp

without glassware
will be sent ex-
press paid to
any address

for
\$1.20

Chimney and Shade
sold everywhere, or we
can supply you

We make 70
other styles of
the famous
'New Roch-
ester,' now
greatly improved.)

The desideratum for a Summer Lamp; sufficient
light with one-quarter the heat of larger sizes.
Bridgeport Brass Co. Bridgeport, Conn.
29 Murray St., N.Y.

DON'T discard your
dresses because they
have lost
their style.
Put

Sponge Crépon



in
them
and
preserv
their
style.

Extra light weight perforated
for Summer wear in Cream,
White, Slate and F's' Black
For Sale by the Sponge Cloth M'fg
Co., Lockport, N. Y. Manufacturers.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER.

A \$40.00 SEWING MACHINE AT MANUFACTURERS COST!

THIS CUT———

Correctly represents the elegant Sewing Machine which we are offering for only

\$17.50,

including the MESSENGER for a year.

Don't let the low price lead you into the error of thinking that this is a cheap machine. It is not. The cut tells you exactly how it looks. It is a handsome machine, finished in the Latest Style Oak. It has five drawers, a gothic top, and extension drop-leaf. It is easy running, fast and almost noiseless. As for wear,

We Warrant it for 10 Years

It has all the most recent improvements and includes a complete set of steel attachments. We have such unbounded confidence in the ability of this machine to make friends wherever it goes, that we offer, if it does not prove in all respects to be exactly as we represent it, to take it back at our expense, and to refund you all your money.

We claim for this machine that it is the

Best in the World.

It is manufactured under the immediate supervision and by the best mechanical talent in the world; the manufacturers have combined only that which is practical, and dispensed with all the complicated surroundings generally found in other machines.

It is the **Simplest Machine**, having the fewest parts, all strong and with case-hardened bearings. Being free from all complication, it is easily cared for, never gets out of order, and is always ready for use. The most inexperienced can readily manage it. It has all the modern appliances and conveniences that go to make up the sum of excellencies.

WE PAY THE FREIGHT

To Any Railroad Point in the United States East of the Rocky Mountains.

The manufacturers of this machine have successfully combined simplicity, durability, reliability, speed, strength and beauty, producing a machine unequalled for ease of management, and capacity for wide range of work. Uses a self-threading cylinder shuttle, and makes the double thread "lock stitch." It is adapted to every variety of sewing from the lightest muslin to the heaviest cloths. Persons who are disposed to doubt that a really first-class machine can be sold at this low figure run no risk in giving this one a trial. We repeat what we have said above: if it is not all we claim for it we will take it back and refund the money. Better conditions than this we cannot make.

THE MESSENGER COMPANY, Aurelia, Iowa.